Alberta Crop Report

Crop Conditions as of August 12, 2014

The warm, dry weather during the past week continued to rapidly enhance crop development toward maturity. Outside of spotty showers, the Central and North East Regions reported some precipitation as well as hail storms with moderate to severe damage.

Harvest of winter wheat and fall rye is underway in the South, Central and North East Regions. In the South Region, swathing of dry peas, spring wheat, durum, barley, and canola has just started. Canola is also being swathed in the Peace and Central Regions.

There has been small decline in overall crop conditions across most parts of the province, especially in the South Region due to hot, dry weather and lack of moisture. The Peace Region reported improvement of five per cent from a week ago, and is now at 52 per cent good to excellent. Provincially, 73 to 78 per cent of spring cereals, canola and dry peas are in good to excellent condition (Table 1).

Preliminary estimates indicate that dryland yield could be about average for most crops. For canola, the 2014 yield is estimated at 38.4 bushels per acre, spring wheat 44.3 bushels per acre and barley 65.7 bushels per acre (Table 2).

Sub-surface soil moisture ratings remain low at 64 per cent good to excellent, mainly due to lack of rain, especially in the South and Peace Regions. The North East Region is still rated over 90 per cent good to excellent. Overall, surface soil moisture is rated as 70 per cent good to excellent.

Producers continue to make good haying progress. First cut haying operations are 96 per cent complete across the province. With respect to quality, 77 per cent of hay is rated as good to excellent. Tame hay and pasture growth is rated as 62 per cent good to excellent.

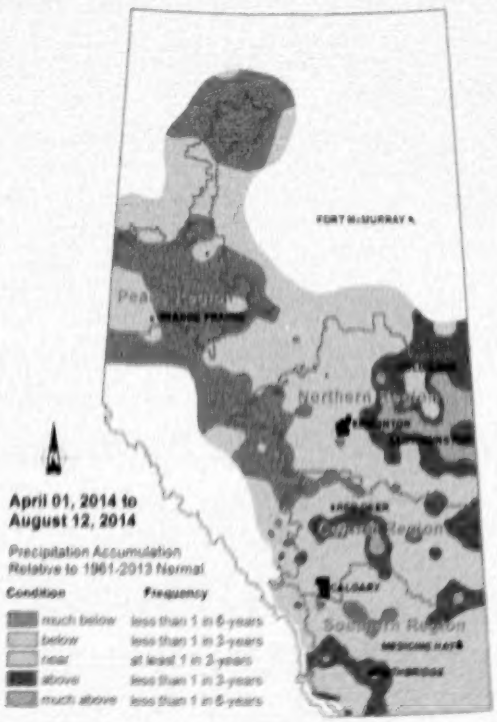
Table 1: Estimates of Crop Conditions, Alberta

	Per Cent Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	NE	NW	Peace	**Alberta**
			As of August 12, 2014			
Spring Wheat	72.7%	65.5%	88.8%	83.6%	50.0%	**73.4%**
Durum	80.5%	62.6%	--	--	--	**77.8%**
Barley	74.1%	65.5%	86.5%	82.5%	46.2%	**73.2%**
Oats	82.5%	67.2%	88.5%	87.9%	51.5%	**75.6%**
Canola	74.5%	63.8%	85.9%	83.2%	55.6%	**73.5%**
Dry Peas	82.0%	67.7%	88.4%	88.8%	43.8%	**76.7%**
Lentils	76.6%	84.3%	--	--	--	**75.3%**
Potatoes	86.0%	45.0%	80.0%	65.0%	--	**[illegible]%**
Sugar Beets	91.3%	--	--	--	--	**91.3%**
Dry Beans	93.0%	--	--	--	--	**93.0%**
Alberta	**75.6%**	**65.2%**	**87.1%**	**83.5%**	**52.1%**	**74.0%**
			As of August 5, 2014			
Alberta	**80.6%**	**66.2%**	**86.0%**	**85.4%**	**46.7%**	**74.7%**

Table 2: Estimates of Dryland Yield, Alberta

	bu/acre					
	South	Central	NE	NW	Peace	**Alberta**
			As of August 12, 2014			
Spring Wheat	42.5	43.9	48.3	53.4	37.2	**44.3**
Durum	43.0	39.4	--	--	--	**42.3**
Barley	59.7	63.7	72.7	73.5	68.3	**65.7**
Oats	62.5	70.3	81.6	91.1	82.7	**79.3**
Canola	38.6	36.9	40.8	44.8	31.8	**38.4**
Dry Peas	42.2	41.5	47.1	48.1	40.8	**43.7**

Source: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development



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The precipitation map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch.

Growing Forward 2
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

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REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS:

The 2014 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Hot, dry weather covered the region this past week allowing crops to progress toward maturity, however under significant heat stress. The hot weather and lack of moisture is starting to affect yield potential. Spotty hail storms were reported in some parts of the region.
- Harvesting of winter wheat and fall rye is underway with three per cent in the bin. Swathing is underway at five per cent done for barley, three per cent for canola and one per cent for spring wheat.
- First cut haying operations for both dryland and irrigated land are virtually done, with 88 per cent and 94 per cent rated as good to excellent quality, respectively. Second cut haying operations are underway, with 34 per cent of irrigated land complete. Pasture and tame hay growth ratings are low due to heat and is now rated as 54 per cent and 57 per cent good to excellent, respectively.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- The combination of hot weather, heavy rain and spotty hail storms were reported across the region. Hail damage was severe in some areas impacting yield and crop maturity. Also, some areas are reporting a few concerns with gophers and grasshoppers.
- Swathing of dry peas, spring wheat, durum, barley, and canola has just started and is reported less than one per cent complete. Winter wheat and fall rye are also being swathed and are both at three per cent complete.
- First cut haying operations are 94 per cent complete on dryland and virtually done on irrigated land. Average yield on dryland is estimated at 1.7 tons per acre, while irrigated is 2.2 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 66 per cent good to excellent for dryland hay and 80 per cent for irrigated. Pasture conditions are reported as 55 per cent good to excellent, with similar ratings reported for tame hay.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Isolated showers and heavy rain during the past week helped to advance crop development and improved crop conditions. Overall, crops are in excellent condition in the region, about 86 to 89 per cent of spring wheat, barley, oats, canola and dry peas are in good to excellent condition.
- Swathing of winter wheat and fall rye is underway, with 30 per cent and 40 per cent completed, respectively. About 10 per cent of winter wheat has been harvested with preliminary dryland yields at 44.5 bushels per acre.
- First cut haying operations are underway, with 92 per cent of dryland complete. Average yield is estimated at 1.7 tons per acre. Quality is rated 84 per cent good to excellent. Pasture conditions are reported as 92 per cent good to excellent, tame hay is at 89 per cent good to excellent.

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- This region experienced hot weather and few isolated showers during the last week. Crop development continues to advance well. However, the dry and hot weather from July is starting to affect crop conditions. Conditions of most primary crops are rated 84 per cent good to excellent.
- Swathing and harvest has not started yet, but is expected to be in full progress across the region within the next two weeks.
- First cut haying operations are nearly finished with 96 per cent of dryland complete. Average yield is estimated at 2.1 tons per acre. Quality decreased due to heat stress and is rated 77 per cent good to excellent. Pasture conditions are reported as 63 per cent good to excellent, with the same ratings reported for tame hay.

Region Five: Peace River (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- Hot, dry weather and a very few spotty showers during the past two weeks advanced crop development. The heat and lack of moisture is affecting potential yields in some areas. Root maggots, grasshoppers, flew beetles and lygus bugs are becoming a concern in some areas.
- Swathing of canola has just started and is reported three per cent compete.
- First cut dryland haying operations are virtually complete. Average yield is estimated at 1.4 tons per acre. Quality is rated 75 per cent good to excellent. Pasture conditions are reported as 47 per cent good to excellent, with similar ratings reported for tame hay.

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